

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00554 040346Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /093 W

----- 037236

R 040255Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4498

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 0554

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, SN, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER VISITS SINGAPORE

1. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ZAKARIA TWEFIC ABDUL FATTACH AND HIS UNDERSECRETARY, AHMED SHOUKRY-EL-KAMAL, WERE IN SINGAPORE JANUARY 28-30 TO PROMOTE BILATERAL TRADE AND TO PURSUE INTERESTS IN RELATED SUBJECTS. VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OUTGROWTH OF PRIME MINISTER LEE'S SEPTEMBER 1975 VISIT TO CAIRO.

2. WHILE LEE/SADAT TALKS ON LATTER OCCASION REPORTEDLY COVERED WIDER RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING POLITICAL MATTERS, FATTAH'S ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS HERE APPARENTLY FOCUSED ON TRADE, SHIPPING, PORT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING. INDEED, LOCAL PRESS REPORTING GIVES IMPRESSION THAT DISCUSSIONS OF THESE MATTERS COVERED EXACTLY SAME GROUND AS HALF YEAR EARLIER.

3. FATTAH URGED ESTABLISHMENT, ESPECIALLY IN PORT SAID FREE TRADE ZONE, OF JOINT VENTURES, ADDING THAT DYNAMIC NEW EGYPTIAN APPROACH IN PROMOTING FOREIGN TRADE AND INVESTMENT MADE SUCH EQUITY PARTICIPATION ESPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE NOW. AS WAS CASE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00554 040346Z

IN CAIRO, VISITING EGYPTIANS REPORTEDLY ALSO EXPRESSED

INTEREST IN FAMILARIZING THEMSELVES WITH OPERATIONS OF SINGAPORE'S FREE TRADE ZONES.

4. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT, FATTAH ASSERTED THAT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WERE UNDERWAY BETWEEN GOS AND EGYPT TO REDUCE FREIGHT RATES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AS A MEASURE TO EXPAND TRADE. HE CITED HIGH FREIGHT RATES AS HINDERANCE TO EXPANDED SALES OF EGYPTIAN COTTON IN SINGAPORE AND OF LOCAL MANUFACTURES IN LARGE EGYPTIAN MARKET. FATTAH SAID EGYPT WOULD EXAMINE CAREFULLY SINGAPORE'S CREDENTIALS TO ASSIST IN BUILDING PLANNED "LARGE MERCANTILE FLEET". EXPRESSING ADMIRATION FOR SINGAPORE'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS, FATTAH SUGGESTED THAT APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS VISIT SINGAPORE AND ACQUIRE INSIGHTS WITH WHICH TO ADVANCE "RECONSTRUCTION" OF EGYPT.

5. COMMENT: SINGAPORE/EGYPTIAN TRADE IS RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT HAS GROWN RAPIDLY IN PERCENTAGE TERMS IN RECENT YEARS. DURING FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1975, EXPORTS TO EGYPT AMOUNTED TO \$16 MILLION WHILE IMPORTS FROM EGYPT STOOD AT \$20 MILLION (US\$1 EQUALS \$2.45).

6. EGYPTIANS COULD PROBABLY BENEFIT FROM SINGAPORE'S LONG EXPERIENCE IN AREAS OF PORT OPERATIONS AND LARGE SCALE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT SINGAPORE ENTREPRENEURS WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER EGYPT AS FOREIGN INVESTMENT SITE IN VIEW OF EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH EXIST CLOSER TO HOME. WHILE SINGAPORE WOULD WELCOME ANY SHIPBUILDING PROJECTS THAT MIGHT COME ITS WAY FROM EGYPT, REALIZATION OF SUCH BUSINESS LIKELY TO BE MORE DEPENDENT ON EGYPT ABILITY TO FINANCE SUCH CONSTRUCTION THAN ON SINGAPORE'S COMPETITIVENESS AS A SHIPBUILDING CENTER.
HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE PROMOTION, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP00554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760041-0789
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760282/aaaacunr.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER VISITS SINGAPORE
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, OVIP, SN, EG, (ABDUL AL-FATTAH, ZAKARIYA TAWFIQ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006